



December 2, 2005

Bank robber is sentenced to 70 months in federal prison

A federal judge has sentenced **William DeLuca**, of Bristol, Rhode Island, to 70 months in federal prison for a robbery in February at a Sovereign Bank branch on Smith Street, Providence. Providence Police arrested DeLuca after he was identified through a Pedro Martinez baseball jersey that he'd worn during the robbery.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence. Judge Lisi also ordered DeLuca to repay Sovereign Bank \$1,026.

DeLuca, 45, pleaded guilty in September to committing a robbery at a federally insured bank. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney James H. Leavey said that the government could prove that, on February 15, DeLuca went into the Sovereign Bank at 1025 Smith Street and inquired about bank services. About thirty minutes later, wearing the same Pedro Martinez jersey he'd worn earlier, he returned to the bank and handed a teller a threatening note demanding money. The teller gave him \$1,026.

After news reports were broadcast describing the robber and the jersey, an ambulance company notified Providence Police that William DeLuca, wearing a Pedro Martinez jersey, had applied for a job that day. Ambulance company employees positively identified DeLuca from a bank surveillance photo.

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Providence Police and the FBI investigated the robbery. DeLuca was prosecuted federally under Project Bank Safe, a concerted effort by the U.S. Attorney's Office, working in conjunction with the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, to prosecute so-called "note-job" bank robberies federally.

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